

HOSPITALS

RSVP volunteers in local hospitals assist staff, patients and families in the following ways:

- *Visiting or providing recreational activities and companionship for children and adults who are hospitalized or receiving outpatient treatments;
- *Working in surgical waiting areas to serve as a liaison between family and staff;
- *Staffing information desks to guide visitors and patients;
- *Delivering mail and flowers to patient rooms;
- *Transporting patients to therapy and other hospital areas;
- *Assisting in various offices and units in the hospital.

These hospitals are partners with RSVP:

BERTRAND CHAFFEE HOSPITAL
BUFFALO GENERAL HOSPITAL
ERIE COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER
KENMORE MERCY HOSPITAL
MERCY HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO
MILLARD FILLMORE GATES
MILLARD FILLMORE SUBURBAN
ROSWELL PARK CANCER INSTITUTE
SISTERS HOSPITAL
TLC HEALTH NETWORK
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION MEDICAL CENTER OF WESTERN NEW YORK
WOMEN'S & CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF BUFFALO

SCIENCE AND NATURE SETTINGS

Do you have a passion for science? Or a commitment to protecting the environment? Join RSVP volunteers who are sharing their knowledge about the natural world with visitors to our local nature preserves, botanical gardens, science museum and the zoo.

RSVP volunteers work in a variety of roles:

- * Leading tours and workshops for groups of schoolchildren and other visitors;
- *Helping to maintain trails and grounds at the nature preserves;
- *Helping to maintain exhibits and educational materials.
- *Helping to maintain the gardens.

BEAVER MEADOW NATURE CENTER
BUFFALO MUSEUM OF SCIENCE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY BOTANICAL GARDENS
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS
TIFFT NATURE PRESERVE

SCHOOLS

RSVP volunteers “go back to school” every September to provide additional assistance for elementary school children in the school classrooms, libraries, and computer labs. In addition to academic assistance, volunteers offer children a special nurturing presence so that many become “Grandma” or “Grandpa” to these young students. Schools need volunteers to assist with the following areas:

- *One-on-one tutoring with children who are identified by the teacher as needing remediation, especially in reading and basic math skills;
- *Reading to small groups of children in the classroom or library;
- *Helping children to learn to research a topic in the library or on the computer;
- *Greeting visitors at the front door;
- *Assisting children on field trips and at special events.

RSVP volunteers are working in the following schools:

BUFFALO (Lorraine Academy, Tapestry Charter School, Triangle Academy)
 CHEEKTOWAGA (Union East Elementary School)
 GRAND ISLAND (Charlotte Sidway School)
 HAMBURG (Armor Elementary, Boston Valley School, Charlotte Avenue School, Union-Pleasant School)
 LANCASTER (Como Park Elementary School)
 WEST SENECA (Clinton Street Elementary, Winchester Elementary, West Middle)
 WILLIAMSVILLE (Forest Elementary, Maple East Elementary)

HOME DELIVERED MEAL PROGRAMS

Home delivered meal programs enable many of our frail elderly citizens to remain in their own homes. RSVP volunteers work in teams (either with another RSVP volunteer or a community volunteer) of a driver and a server. Volunteers are given a set route and schedule to deliver a nutritionally balanced, two-meal package to each participant. At the same time, and equally important, volunteers provide a brief friendly visit that is also a check on the participant’s well-being.

RSVP volunteers deliver meals through the following programs:

AMHERST MEALS ON WHEELS
 GRAND ISLAND MEALS ON WHEELS
 KEN-TON MEALS ON WHEELS
 MEALS ON WHEELS OF BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY (includes various sites in the city, suburbs, and rural areas)
 SOUTHTOWNS MEALS ON WHEELS (serving Boston, Colden, Concord, Holland and Sardinia)

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

Almost 30 percent of adults living in Buffalo read below fifth grade level. This statistic is 10 percent higher than the national average. Adults with limited literacy skills are not able to participate fully in the emerging information economy, where even traditional jobs such as automobile repair, hospitality and retail are increasingly computerized. Volunteers are urgently needed, particularly in the City of Buffalo, to tutor adults to increase reading skills for job requirements and daily living skills. Volunteers also are needed to tutor adults who do not have English as a primary language. Volunteers receive training and materials needed for the tutoring situation.

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

CULTURAL HERITAGE SETTINGS

RSVP volunteers are assisting in a variety of ways at a number of the cultural heritage destinations that are playing an increasingly important role in the revitalization of our community. Volunteers give tours, greet visitors, help to maintain exhibits and grounds, and assist in offices. RSVP cultural heritage sites include:

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY NAVAL & MILITARY PARK
 BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF HOUSE & ESTATE

FOOD AND CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION FOR THOSE IN NEED

RSVP volunteers are helping to address the needs of individuals and families in our community who do not have access to enough food to meet basic needs at all times.

RSVP volunteers can help to meet this critical need in the following ways:

- *Stock shelves and assist recipients at food pantries and thrift stores;
- *Prepare and serve nutritious meals for guests at soup kitchens;
- *Pick up surplus and donated food from grocery stores and restaurants, and deliver to soup kitchens and food pantries;
- *Assist with community gardening project that supplies fresh vegetables for soup kitchens and food pantries;
- *Assist with nutrition classes and other educational initiatives.

RSVP partners with the following agencies:

THE FOOD BANK OF WESTERN NEW YORK

THE FOOD SHUTTLE

THE LOVEJOY CAREGIVERS INTERDENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

OPERATION GOOD NEIGHBOR (NORTH EVANS AND ANGOLA)

RESPONSE TO LOVE

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

TRANSPORTATION

Access to friends, family, medical care, shopping, and other opportunities depends on availability of transportation. Health, income and other problems may result in a need for alternative transportation, especially among elderly and disabled persons who live in areas where there is limited public transportation. RSVP is a partner with:

RURAL TRANSIT SERVICES (serving Boston/Colden/Eden, Clarence/Newstead, Concord, Collins/North Collins, Brant/Evans, Holland/Sardinia, Marilla/ Elma/ Wales/ Aurora, Orchard Park) RSVP volunteers work as van drivers, driver aides and dispatchers to provide transportation for elderly, disabled, and low-income adults.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY 's ROAD TO RECOVERY PROGRAM- Volunteers use their own vehicles to provide transportation for patients to treatment sites.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION/ DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS TRANSPORTATION NETWORK- Volunteers are needed as van drivers and dispatchers to provide transportation for veterans to medical appointments at the VA.

INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER's GETTING THERE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM – Volunteers use their own vehicles to provide transportation for people with developmentally disabilities to social and recreational activities.

COMPANIONSHIP/ OUTREACH

Social isolation is a daily experience for many older people, especially those who are widowed, homebound, or who live far from family. Social isolation increases risk for other problems such as depression or poor nutrition. RSVP volunteers connect with frail, isolated individuals through

- *Making telephone calls to clients through the Telephone Assurance Program;
- *Making brief friendly visits to clients who are homebound or in nursing homes.
- *Helping with errands and light housekeeping and yard work.

AMERICAN RED CROSS LIFE PROJECT
AMHERST SENIOR CENTER
COMMUNITY CONCERN
COORDINATED CARE

LIBRARIES

RSVP volunteers assist with shelving books, directing library patrons, and other tasks in various library branches.

BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES
CONCORD HURLBURT LIBRARY

LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES

RSVP volunteers who assist in various ways in local nursing homes add to the residents' quality of life. These include:

- *Assisting with recreational activities, special events, and field trips;
- *Providing music, entertainment, or teach a craft to the residents;
- *Friendly visits with residents;
- *Transporting residents to therapy and other destinations;
- *Assisting in offices;
- *Deliver mail to resident rooms.

BROMPTON HEIGHTS

BROTHERS OF MERCY NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER

ERIE COUNTY HOME

HEATHWOOD HEALTH CARE FACILITY

LUTHERAN CHURCH HOME

MAPLEWOOD HEALTH CARE CENTER

THE MCGUIRE GROUP (GARDEN GATE MANOR, SENECA MANOR)

WEINBERG CAMPUS

ADULT DAY HEALTH SERVICES

Adult day care provides benefits for frail older adults and their families. Participants in an adult day care program receive nutritious meals, socialization, and recreational outings in a friendly, comfortable setting. At the same time, adult day care provides periods of respite for family caregivers. Volunteers in adult day health programs assist with the daily program at the center, which may include exercise, games, field trips, and reminiscence activities.

TOWN OF AMHERST ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

TOWN OF HAMBURG ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

CONSUMER ADVOCATE AGENCIES

Volunteers receive training to provide information to consumers about health care insurance options, or about resolving concerns or disputes with business owners.

BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU

HEALTH INSURANCE INFORMATION/ COUNSELING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

AGENCIES SERVING DISABLED ADULTS AND CHILDREN

RSVP volunteers can assist at organizations that create occupational and recreational opportunities for persons with disabilities:

EXCALIBUR LEISURE SKILLS CENTER, INC.

Excalibur is dedicated to providing cost-free boating and fishing opportunities for disabled and disadvantaged persons. A specially modified wheelchair accessible boat gives Excalibur's guests the opportunity to enjoy access to a day of boating and fishing on the waters of Lake Erie. Volunteers assist the captain to ensure that the guests have a safe and enjoyable voyage.

THE CANTALICIAN CENTER

Volunteers are needed to act as mentors for developmentally disabled adults in a sheltered workshop setting. Volunteers help workers on a one-on-one basis to complete an assigned task in assembling a product, and serve as role models of work attitude and behavior. Volunteers also can assist with recreational activities in the Seniors program.

SKATING ASSOCIATION FOR THE BLIND & HANDICAPPED (SABAH)

SABAH is dedicated to building competence and confidence of children and adults with disabilities through an ice skating program that culminates each year in an Ice Skating Extravaganza. Volunteers can become part of this nationally recognized program in a number of ways:

- *Become a skating partner of one of the special "stars";
- *Check in skaters, tie skates, and assist with equipment needs;
- *Sew costumes;
- *Assist in office.

LOTHLORIEN THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTER

Therapeutic horseback riding is widely accepted as a useful method of improving the physical, mental and emotional well being of individuals with disabilities. At Lothlorian in East Aurora, volunteers can help in various ways.

- *Assist those students who need assistance riding their ponies or horses.
- *Lead the horse or walk beside the rider to give cues and encouragement.
- *Groom and tack horses.

NIAGARA FRONTIER RADIO READING SERVICE

Think how much you would miss being able to read—and think about your blind and print-handicapped neighbors who miss reading every day of their lives. Niagara Frontier Radio Reading Service is radio that reads for people who can't. Radio Reading's volunteers broadcast 24-hour-a-day readings of newspapers, magazines, books, and other information.

HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

RSVP volunteers assist local health organizations to serve the community and promote better health and health care in ways such as:

- *Organizing educational and fund-raising mailings;
- *Assisting with telephones, data entry and other clerical needs;
- *Assisting with special events in the community.
- *Assisting with bloodmobiles and transport of blood supplies.
- *Acting as an ombudsman to advocate for residents rights at local nursing homes;
- *Recruit new donors for aphaeresis program

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
 AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION
 AMERICAN RED CROSS
 ERIE COUNTY OFFICE FOR THE DISABLED
 ERIE COUNTY OFFICE OF MENTAL HEALTH
 LEUKEMIA & LYMPHOMA SOCIETY
 LUPUS ALLIANCE OF WESTERN NEW YORK
 SICKLE CELL DISEASE ASSOCIATION

SENIOR CENTERS

RSVP volunteers serve the community through programs organized by many local senior centers. Volunteers in sewing groups make laprobes, wheelchair bags, and turbans for patients undergoing treatments. Volunteers adopt inner city schools to make sure that each child has a holiday gift and a warm winter coat. Volunteers provide free entertainment for nursing home residents. Volunteers who are retired nurses offer blood pressure screenings for those who attend the senior center. Volunteers run exercise programs and other activities. Affiliated senior centers and nutrition sites include:

AMHERST SENIOR CENTER
 AUTUMNWOOD SENIOR CENTER
 BOSTON NUTRITION
 CLARENCE SENIOR CENTER
 GRAND ISLAND GOLDEN AGE CENTER
 LANCASTER SENIOR CENTER
 ORCHARD PARK SENIOR CENTER
 RIVERSIDE SENIOR CENTER
 SALEM CONCORD NUTRITION SITE
 SALVATION ARMY GOLDEN AGE CENTER
 TOWN OF EVANS SENIOR CENTER
 WEST SENECA SENIOR CENTER

NEW OPPORTUNITIES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Remember how much fun you had after school? Share this special time with a group of children attending a local after school program. Volunteers are needed to:

- *Help children to complete homework assignments;
- *Help with recreational activities and snacks;
- *Act as mentors for the children.

MOUNT OLIVE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
SENECA BABCOCK COMMUNITY CENTER

REFUGEE SERVICES

You can help and learn about different cultures without leaving Buffalo! Volunteers are needed to help sort donations, set up apartments, to drive newcomers to medical and employment appointments. Volunteers can accompany newcomers and teach them about the transit system. Volunteers also are needed for mailings, fundraising, public relations, special events. Specific needs include:

- *Office/telephone/reception assistance
- *Mr. Fix-It to assist with repairs in office and "Welcome House"
- *Shopper/Bargain Hunter to assist in purchasing necessary items for newcomers.

JOURNEY'S END REFUGEE SERVICES

RESPIRE

Alzheimer's disease affects one in 10 Americans over 65, and takes a significant toll on family caregivers. Volunteers are needed to provide in-home companionship, supervision, and meaningful activity to an individual with dementia while providing a much-needed break for the family caregiver. Volunteers visit in pairs for two hours every week or every other week. Volunteers provide conversation, play cards, read, and serve prepared meals and snacks. (Volunteers **do not** provide personal care or assistance with ambulation.) Volunteers receive complete training before they visit a client.

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION- WESTERN NEW YORK CHAPTER

EXERCISE AND FITNESS PROGRAMS

The Erie County Dept. of Senior Services is seeking dependable, outgoing and enthusiastic individuals to volunteer as fitness instructors for the senior community. Volunteers receive training, and are assigned to a senior center near their home. Volunteers will educate and inspire participants while conducting exercise classes.

ERIE COUNTY DEPT. OF SENIOR SERVICES SENIOR FITNESS PROGRAM

NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION

Be a part of Buffalo's revitalization! Volunteers can assist with neighborhood beautification projects, promote home ownership and ensure that community residents have access to adequate housing., support existing block clubs and help to form new block clubs. Volunteers can work as mentors in "safe havens" for neighborhood youth.

BUFFALO WEED & SEED

KENSINGTON-BAILEY NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES, INC.

WOMEN'S SERVICES

Displaced homemakers experience problems of economic loss, child care, transportation, housing, lack of basic necessities, and family life disruption. They may face emotional, medical and legal difficulties. Everywoman Opportunity Center, Inc. helps displaced women achieve self-sufficiency. Volunteers assist with clerical needs, special events and mailings, and maintaining the clothes closet of professional attire.

EVERYWOMAN OPPORTUNITY CENTER, INC.

HOSPICE

Hospice is a philosophy of caring, a compassionate approach to care whose goal is to help people live life fully, maintain their dignity, and keep personal control over their lives. Hospice provides medical care, emotional and spiritual support to people with advanced illness and their families. RSVP volunteers are needed in a variety of roles at the new Hospice House on the Mitchell Campus in Cheektowaga.

HOSPICE BUFFALO, INC.

HOSPITALITY AND REGIONAL TOURISM

Serve as a regional goodwill emissary by providing courteous, friendly assistance and useful information to people in the Buffalo Niagara International Airport. Volunteers strive to make each airport visitor's a positive experience, and help travelers to enjoy their trip to the Niagara Region. Volunteers are provided free parking in the ramp.

HOSPITALITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

MENTORING

Would you like to be a positive role model in the life of a young person who is struggling with difficulties in family, school, and community? At a residential school in Hamburg, volunteers can provide tutoring, accompany students on social outings, or just listen and be a friend.

HOPEVALE, INC.

CONSERVATION

Earth Team volunteers are needed to commit their time and talent to conserve and protect soil, water, and wildlife for our community. Volunteers join professional conservationists as they work directly with local farmers in putting conservation practices on the land. The Earth Team may help to prevent wind and water erosion, conserve and clean up water, reduce flooding, or help citizens of all ages learn about the environment and conservation.

USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

MENTAL HEALTH

At any given time, millions of Americans suffer from a mental illness that requires professional treatment. They often experience devastating loneliness, isolation, and the intense misunderstanding associated with mental illness. Volunteers are needed to provide friendship and positive role models, and to help raise self-esteem and increase social skills for children and adults diagnosed with mental illness.

COMPEER OF GREATER BUFFALO

FINANCIAL COUNSELING

An increasing number of families are struggling to get out of debt and stay out of bankruptcy. Trained volunteers, under the supervision of a certified counselor, provide families with information about budgeting, credit issues, and other financial concerns. Volunteers also present off-site informational seminars.

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELING SERVICE OF BUFFALO, INC.

PUBLIC BROADCASTING

Don't just watch the Great TV Auction or the WNED Membership Campaigns! Be a star for public broadcasting! Many fun and exciting volunteer opportunities are available. You may even be part of a live broadcast.

WESTERN NEW YORK BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL

Are you looking for an opportunity to use your problem solving skills? Do you have good communication skills and basic computer skills? Would you like an office with a great view of the waterfront? Volunteers assist callers to identify their needs, and direct them to appropriate services by using a computerized database of all community services.

CENTRAL REFERRAL SERVICE